

**University of Massachusetts Lowell
Faculty Senate**

Minutes of November 3, 2003

Presiding: Ann Marie Hurley, President
Recording: Adrianna Morris, Staff Assistant

Meeting commenced at 3:35 p.m., Alumni Hall

- I. Minutes of May 5, 2003--approved
Minutes of October 6, 2003--approved.
- II. Election of Representatives to the Board of Trustees
Michael Carter
Eve Buzawa (Alternate)
Michael Carter discussed his experience as a member of the Finance and Academic Subcommittee within the Board of Trustees. He noted that all campuses are experiencing financial difficulties. He mentioned that Jack Wilson has been meeting with state representatives on Beacon Hill and he believes that cuts will be more equitable across the state and less focused on Higher Education. He cited that the three new trustees appointed are highly qualified and all reside outside of Massachusetts. One is a former UML graduate (William O'Shea).
- III. Robert Parkin (President of the Faculty Union) reported on House Bill 2153. He cited the extent of support for the faculty contracts was overwhelming (30 representatives spoke with passion) to fund all three years of the contract and the House Ways and Means committee. He believes it will reach the governors desk, be delayed and vetoed. He suggested that it will come again and a compromise may be reached, perhaps the raises, but a delay in back pay.
- IV. Liana Chaney reported that leaking buildings have been brought to the attention of the physical plant. She also cited that she has noticed a lack of participation of some members of the Senate, and called upon members present to encourage other members to attend the meetings.
- V. **Standing Committees**

A. Graduate Policy and Affairs Committee

Resolution #1: The Senate resolved that the Department for Civil and Environmental Engineering be authorized to offer the new Certificate Program "Sustainable Infrastructure for Developing Nations". (Motion Approved)

Resolution #2: The Senate resolves that the Music Department be authorized to offer a new Master of Music degree program in Sound Recording Technology. (Motion Approved)

Resolution #3: The Senate resolves that the Graduate School of Education be authorized to reduce the number of credits required in the Ed.D. programs from 60 to 48 credits beyond the master's level. (Motion approved)

B. Research and Development Committee—No Resolutions

Thomas Shea was introduced as the New Acting Chair of the Research and Development Committee (Garth Hall, the previous chair is no longer a Senator). He asked for any interested parties to email him if they are interested in joining the committee. A suggestion was made that one of the charters of the committee should be to redefine faculty workload based on the number of supervised thesis candidates. A response that this should be carried out at the department level was made.

C. Undergraduate Policy Committee—No Resolutions

Discussion evolved regarding the new grading system. The Registrar, Janet King noted that no grading will be changed until next fall. PeopleSoft plans to change the grading system in Feb 05. Janet King believed that this would not be a good time in the middle of a semester to change the grading system. Janet King mentioned that she will have a better idea at the next meeting, since there is still some question as to the inclusion of all of the campuses.

C. Executive Committee

Resolution #1 Given that we are working with few support staff, the faculty is very dependent on the email system and related technologies. Because of this, the Faculty Senate is extremely concerned about the instability of the networks and e-mail servers. Therefore, the Senate resolves a vote of no confidence in the Office of Information Technology.

A lengthy discussion evolved regarding this resolution with questions as to whether this was a budgetary or personnel issue. Some cited that they did not believe that it was a monetary issue, that the PeopleSoft project had provided enough money for the technology. Some believe that there was forewarning that this problem would occur and lack of a quick response caused the amount of down time to be much greater. Other discussion included the faculty being encouraged to teach with technology, yet the capabilities of the technology are not being provided. A question of whether there was unanimous agreement of the Executive Committee was posed. It was noted that there was unanimous agreement on the part of the Executive Committee A recommendation to make a list of problems was suggested in order that the appropriate parties be held responsible.

A Call of the question was voted on 23 in favor 2 opposed. A vote for the resolution was taken, 16 in favor, 6 opposed, 2 abstained.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Next Meeting: December 1, 2003

